

Weekly Field Memo – April 3, 2014

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NEWS & UPDATES:

Spotlight on New Agency Contact Info: Special Education

Audience: All

Special Educational Consultants can be reached as follows:

- Technical Assistance Line: **802-479-1255**
- General Supervision & Monitoring: 802-479-1249 (phone) | 802-479-4320 (fax)
- Integrated Support for Learning: 802-479-1364 (phone) | 802-479-1346 (fax)
- Finance: 802-479-1137 (phone) | 802-479-1839 (fax)
- <http://education.vermont.gov/special-education> (web)
- 219 North Main Street | Suite 402 | Barre, VT 05641 (physical and mailing address). ****Please be sure to include the suite number on all mail as it will be returned if the suite # is not included. ****
- To ensure confidentiality, special education consultants do not correspond via e-mail about specific children who are receiving special education service.

Thank you for your patience in this time of transition. The Agency's website has been updated with our contact information, which you can access here: <http://education.vermont.gov/contact>.

Linking Health & Learning: April 2014 Bulletin

Audience: All

Scroll through [this edition](#) for information about nominating outstanding school health colleagues for a national award, find a free crossing guard video tutorial, plus a Lyme disease video contest for high school youth. Professional development opportunities include webinars for school food service, school playground safety inspection, free farm-to-school institute, free fitness education workshop for PE teachers, a free physical activity leader training, and a number of upcoming summer courses. Grants or funding is available for school food service equipment, universal recycling, Fitnessgram, school-based tobacco use prevention, and a new grant for videos about Vermont school physical activity and nutrition programs. [Click here](#) to read the April e-bulletin. [Click here](#) to read past e-bulletins.

Contact: Lindsay Simpson, Physical Education Coordinator, 802-479-1476 or lindsay.simpson@state.vt.us.

LEGISLATIVE & REQUIRED ACTIONS:

Flexible Pathways Initiative S.130/Act 77: March 2014 Bulletin

Audience: High School Principals, Superintendents, Tech Ed Directors, Guidance Directors

The March 2014 Dual Enrollment bulletin is now online: <http://bit.ly/1mFhIH6>.

Contact: Debi Price, Project Manager, 802-479-1172 or debora.price@state.vt.us

The 2014 NECAP Science Assessment

Audience: Principals, Testing Directors

Deadline: April 11, 2014

The NECAP Science Assessment for all students in grades 4, 8 and 11 will take place from Monday, May 5 through Thursday, May 22, 2014. Pickup of all testing materials will be Friday, May 23. Measured Progress will be shipping out the assessment materials on Friday, April 18 by UPS. For those schools that will be closed for spring recess the week of April 21-25 and would prefer to have their materials delivered when school reopens on Monday, April 28, please send an email to Mary Ann Minardo maryann.minardo@state.vt.us by Friday, April 11 stating your request.

Contact: Mary Ann Minardo, Assessment Coordinator, 802-479-1309 or maryann.minardo@state.vt.us

WEBINARS, CONFERENCES, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

Proficiency Based Learning Workday Invitation: April 10, 2014

Audience: All

Deadline: April 6, 2014

Proficiency Based Learning (PBL) Workdays are a place to share and receive feedback on your work/practice/dilemmas, to learn from student and teacher success in the field, and to build collegiality with like-minded educators across Vermont. Workdays aren't simply a one-off professional development experience, but an ongoing conversation to help advance PBL throughout the state. This is open to teachers, students, leaders, families, and interested folks. [Click here](#) to register.

Contact: Meg Powden, League of Innovative Schools, 802-479-1338 or meg.powden@state.vt.us

National Council of Supervisors of Mathematics (NCSM) Conference

Audience: All Mathematics Educators

The 46th [NCSM Annual Conference](#) will be held from April 7 through April 9, 2014, in New Orleans, LA. Join us for three exciting days focused on important issues for leaders in mathematics education. The Vermont Math Leadership Council (VMLC) will be receiving its Affiliate Charter during the conference!

Contact: Tracy Watterson, Elementary Mathematics, 802-479-1353 or tracy.watterson@state.vt.us

Common Core ELA Webinars: Constructing Quality Performance Tasks

Audience: K-5 Educators

Join us for the second webinar focused on digging deeper into performance tasks. We will walk through the process of creating a performance assessment, using the framework for planning and integrating standards from multiple domains. Learn more and register here: <http://goo.gl/4bOvC1>.

- Elementary date: April 10 at 3:30 pm

Contact: Lori Dolezal, Elementary Literacy Coordinator, 802-479-1405 or lori.dolezal@state.vt.us

STANDARDS & ASSESSMENTS:



Common Core State Standards (CCSS): Resources on the AOE Website

Audience: All

Check out our Common Core website, we add new resources on a weekly basis: <http://bit.ly/1m9D7b4>. [Click here](#) to learn more about CCSS ELA. [Click here](#) to learn more about CCSS Mathematics.

Contacts: Pat Fitzsimmons, Common Core Coordinator, pat.fitzsimmons@state.vt.us; Lori Dolezal, Elementary Literacy Coordinator, lori.dolezal@state.vt.us; Kris Breen, Secondary Literacy Coordinator, kris.breen@state.vt.us; Tracy Watterson, Math Coordinator, tracy.watterson@state.vt.us



Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM)

Audience: All

Learn more about DLM here: <http://bit.ly/1g80awP>.

Contact: Cindy Moran, Alternate Assessment Coordinator, 802-479-1432 or cindy.moran@state.vt.us

NECAP 2013 Reading, Mathematics & Writing Released Items

Audience: Principals, Curriculum Coordinators, Mathematics, Reading & Writing Teachers

The fall 2013 NECAP released items and support materials for grades 3-8 and 11 in reading, math, and writing are now on the AOE website. [Click here](#) to view the items and materials.

Contact: Mary Ann Minardo, Assessment Consultant, 802-479-1309 or maryann.minardo@state.vt.us



Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS): Weekly FAQ

Audience: All

What are crosscutting concepts? [Click here](#) to see the answer. [Click here](#) to access the science standards.

Contacts: Gail Hall, Middle-High School Science, 802-479-1284 or gail.hall@state.vt.us; Kathy Renfrew, K-5 Science, 802-479-1448 or kathy.renfrew@state.vt.us



Smarter Balanced (SBAC) Assessments

Audience: All

Learn more about the assessments here: <http://education.vermont.gov/sbac>.

Contacts: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us; Mary Ann Minardo, SBAC Teacher Involvement Coordinator, 802-479-1309 or maryann.minardardo@state.vt.us

OTHER EDUCATION NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS:

State Board of Education Supports Legislation Expanding Prekindergarten - Grade 12 School Districts

Audience: All

The Vermont State Board of Education passed a motion at its monthly meeting to support the current legislative language in [H.883](#) regarding the establishment of expanded prekindergarten through grade 12 education districts. [Click here](#) to read the press release. [Click here](#) to learn more about the Board.

Contact: Carol King, State Board Liaison, 802-479-1280 or carol.c.king@state.vt.us

Has Your School's Boiler been Serviced and Inspected?

Audience: Superintendents, Principals, Building Maintenance Staff

The Vermont Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire Safety, and Office of the State Fire Marshall want to remind all schools that **all boilers** in school buildings are required to have:

1. Periodic servicing (cleaning, testing, etc.) by a qualified oil or gas technician at least once every two years (2012 VT Fire & Building Safety Code, Section 1:11.5.5.7.1), and
2. All boilers must be inspected periodically (usually every two years) by a qualified boiler inspector – check with your insurance company (same code, Section 6(g)).

Learn more about school facilities here: <http://education.vermont.gov/school-facilities-and-construction>.

Contact: Bruce Martin, 802-885-8883 or your school's regional office of the Fire Safety Division

Call for Nominations for 2014 Humanities Educator of the Year Award

Audience: All

Deadline: May 1, 2014

The Vermont Humanities Council seeks nominations for the 12th annual [Victor R. Swenson Humanities Educator of the Year Award](#), which recognizes a Vermont educator in grades 6 through 12 who exemplifies excellence in the teaching of the humanities (language, literature, history, social studies, or other humanities fields). The award is named for Victor Swenson, VHC's first executive director.

Nominations: submit [online](#), via [email](#), or mail to Vermont Humanities Council, Victor R. Swenson Humanities Educator Award, 11 Loomis Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05602.

Contact: Linda Wrazen, Development Officer, 802.262.2626 x309 or lwrazen@vermonthumanities.org

Financial Literacy Training Series

Audience: All

Colin Ryan, a comedian and inspirational speaker, is leading a free financial literacy workshop open to all youth and adults. This is the first in a series of four financial literacy trainings for youth, mentors, and other adults, co-sponsored by Girls/Boyz First Mentoring, Kellogg Hubbard Library, National Life, Northfield Savings Bank and the Vermont State Employees Credit Union. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Contact: Wendy Freundlich, Girls Boyz First Mentoring, 802-229-4798 or wendy.freedom51@gmail.com

Youth Agriculture Business Development Program

Audience: Educators

Deadline: May 15, 2014

The [Center for Sustainable Agriculture's Youth Agriculture Individual Development Account](#) (Youth Ag IDA) program is accepting applications. Seeking youth who are involved with or interested in agriculture, to participate in a one-year program that will help them save money towards the purchase of a business-related asset and provide the education needed to acquire important business management skills. Learn more and apply here: <http://www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/vtyouthagida/>.

Contact: Ali Zipparo, Youth Ag, 802-656-9139 or azipparo@uvm.edu

This Field Memo is posted weekly by the Vermont Agency of Education (VT-AOE) to better organize our e-communications to the field. There may be times when separate messages from the Agency will still be sent. In addition, the VT-AOE Weekly Field Memo is [archived](#) on the Agency of Education website. For information which is three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Angela Ross, Public Information Officer, at (802) 479-1240 or angela.ross@state.vt.us.

Sign up for the weekly field memo here: http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field_memo.html

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